Message Text

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT SINGAPORE 0331 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JAKARTA, KUALA LUMPUR, TOKYO & PORT MORESBY DTD 24 JAN 78

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIALSIN GAPORE 0331

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OVIP, ESCAP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG

REF: STATE 17103

1. WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SINGAPORE. WE CAN SEE NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED TIMING IN SECOND OR THIRD WEEK MARCH, SO LONG AS THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH FORTH-COMING MEETING OF EAST ASIAN COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTERS) IN CANBERRA. BELIEVE LATTER MEETING (IF IT CONFIDENTIAL

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MATERIALIZES AT ALL) IS TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR FEBRUARY BUT COULD SLIP TO MARCH.

2. WE SUGGEST YOUNG PLAN TO DEVOTE TWO DAYS TO SINGAPORE. ATTEMPTING TO PACK EVERYTHING INTO A SINGLE DAY (AS WAS DONE DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S RECENT VISIT) IS TAXING ON THE PRINCIPAL AND DOES NOT PROVIDE TIME FOR AN ADEQUATE

PROGRAM.

- 3. PRIME MINISTER LEE HAS MENTIONED WITH PLEASURE HIS MEETING WITH YOUNG AT UN LAST OCTOBER, AND WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO SEE HIM. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH LEE AND OTHER SENIOR SINGAPORE OFFICIALS, WE BELIEVE YOUNG MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN OBSERVING SINGAPORE'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A PROSPEROUS EGALITARIAN MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY FROM THE THREE DISPARATE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES HERE. THIS IS A SOCIETY THAT HAS DEVELOPED SOME UNIQUE ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT, AND WE THINK A LOOK AT SOME OF THEM WOULD BE WELL WORTH AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TIME. WE WOULD RECOMMEND A VISIT TO ONE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, TO A SCHOOL AND PERHAPS EVEN TO AN ARMY BASE TO SEE HOW SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL SERVICE IS USED AS AN IMPLEMENT FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION. BEYOND THAT, WE WOULD SUGGEST A BRIEF LOOK AT SINGAPORE'S REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THROUGH A TOUR OF JURONG INDUSTRIAL TOWN.
- 4. WE BELIEVE A REWARDING PROGRAM COULD BE WORKED OUT ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES ON A TWO-DAY VISIT. IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS ANY OTHER SPECIAL INTERESTS, WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE THEM AND WE ARE SURE SINGAPOREANS CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD COOPERATE. HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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